

IN THE DRAWINGS:

A Letter to the Official Draftsman is attached with proposed drawing corrections to Figure 3.

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 3. This sheet, which includes Fig. 3, replaces the original sheet of Fig. 3.

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to Figure 3. The Examiner objected to the abstract of the disclosure because of informalities. Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Downes in U.S. Patent No. 6,029,980.

As defined in claim 1, “a plurality of protrusions” extends in a direction parallel to the shaft. The specification and Figure 1 show that the direction is the direction in which the shaft and the housing move relative to each other, that is, the direction of the shaft.

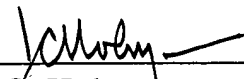
On the other hand, “a plurality of protrusions” of the Downes Patent (U.S. Patent No. 6,029,980) extends in a direction perpendicular to the shaft. Therefore, claim 1 is distinguished over the Downes patent.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the present application, as they now stand, patentably distinguish over the references cited and applied by the Examiner and are, therefore, in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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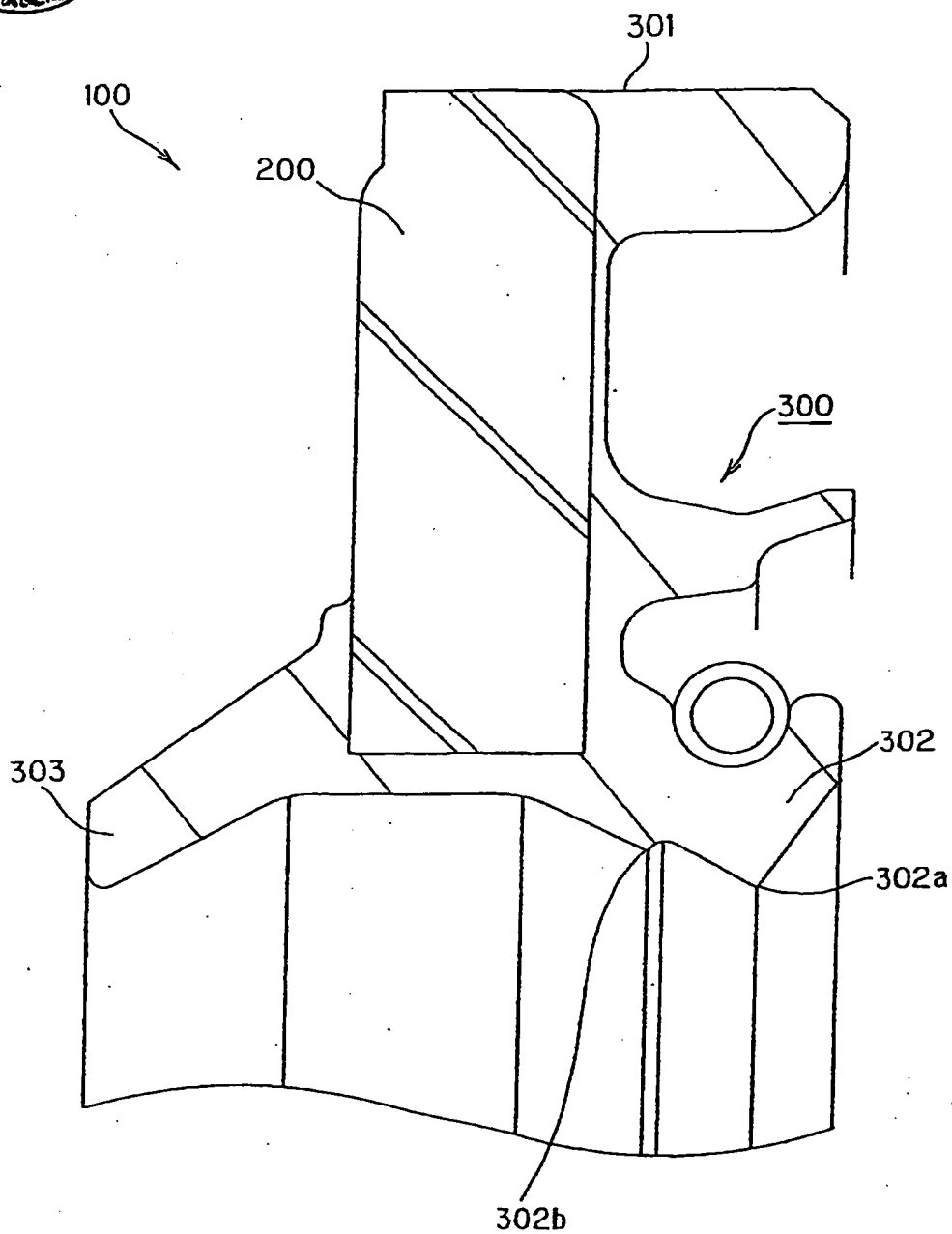


FIG. 3

PRIOR ART